AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALIAGA, CUYAPO, LICAB, NAMPICUAN, QUEZON, AND STO. DOMINGO, IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECJIA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the
“Nueva Ecija Province TESDA Training and Assessment Centers
Act”.

SEC. 2. Establishment. — There are hereby established
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
Training and Assessment Centers in the six (6) municipalities of the
Province of Nueva Ecija, namely: Aliaga, Cuyapo, Licab, Nampicuan,
Quezon, and Sto. Domingo, under the supervision of the TESDA. The
Centers shall be known individually as follows: (a) Aliaga, Nueva
Ecija Training and Assessment Center; (b) Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija
Training and Assessment Center; (c) Licab, Nueva Ecija Training
and Assessment Center; (d) Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija Training
and Assessment Center; (e) Quezon, Nueva Ecija Training and
Assessment Center; and (f) Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija Training and
Assessment Center. They shall be established in highly accessible
location in the six (6) municipalities in the Province of Nueva Ecija,
pursuant to the purposes of this Act and to the mutual agreement
between the TESDA and the concerned local government units
(LGUs).

SEC. 3. General Mandate. — The Aliaga, Cuyapo, Licab,
Nampicuan, Quezon, and Sto. Domingo TESDA Training and
Assessment Centers, hereinafter referred to as the Centers, shall
primarily provide technical-vocational education and training
(TVET) programs to students, local residents from low-income
families, and out-of-school youths, including persons with disabilities
and indigenous peoples, in the six (6) municipalities aforementioned
and adjacent localities in the Province of Nueva Ecija, to help them
become productive, self-reliant and globally competitive labor assets.

The Centers shall offer training programs on relevant skills
trade competencies, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship activities
needed to deliver the effective employment interventions that will
hasten the development of the host areas and adjacent localities in
the Province of Nueva Ecija into human resource and productivity
hubs.

The Centers shall each serve as TESDA-accredited Assessment
Center for acquired competencies in TVET programs in the Province
of Nueva Ecija. They shall each provide teachers’ training and
curriculum design assistance to the secondary schools offering the
technical-vocational livelihood track under the K to 12 Program in
coordination with the Department of Education and the TESDA.

SEC. 4. Training Programs. — The Centers shall offer
short-term certificate courses and modular trainings in preferred
technical-vocational skills and trades specialization. To this end, the
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), business-industry partners, and other relevant agencies and instrumentalties, both local and international, shall provide the necessary assistance to enable the Centers to develop skilled manpower to achieve a robust and inclusive economy in the host areas and adjacent localities.

The Centers may establish research and technology hubs, technology development farms, satellite or extension training centers, and promote mobile training programs to strengthen linkages among the industry partners, the academe, and the Centers geared towards the acquisition of practical livelihood, employable skills, gainful employment, and entrepreneurship in priority areas in the six (6) municipalities and adjacent localities in the Province of Nueva Ecija.

The Centers shall offer the following TVET programs with competencies assessment leading to National Certification Levels I-III:

(a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of power tools and equipment for both medium skills trade and industrial purposes;

(b) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farm, fishing tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and relevant farmers and fisherfolk’s trainings for increased productivity and entrepreneurship;

(c) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

(d) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, practical accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application procedures, including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-export accreditation, including online home-based business operation and use of social media business marketing;

(e) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant practical skills courses;

(f) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, digital technology, web design, animation, photoshop/online photography, computer design, and advertising;

(g) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job placement;
(h) Seminars on personality development, career counseling
and job placement, and work ethic and values; and

(i) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be
needed by the people of the six (6) municipalities of Aliaga, Cuyapo,
Licab, Nampicuan, Quezon, and Sto. Domingo, and adjacent localities
in the Province of Nueva Ecija to enhance their capacities for
practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial
activities.

SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements. – The
provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the Centers shall become
operational only upon the determination and certification by the
TESDA, through the issuance of a formal recommendation and
certificate of compliance, that the Centers have individually and
satisfactorily complied with the minimum requirements for quality
standards prescribed by the TESDA governing the following
competency assessment:

(a) Standard procedures and guidelines for the establishment
and operation of a Center;

(b) Operational sustainability of the Centers, in terms of
licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and
laboratory facilities, instructional materials, and other standard
requirements of a Center;

(c) Sustainable funding source and allocation of
the budgetary requirement;

(d) Assurance that the training programs offered are fully
aligned with the minimum standards of competency-based quality
technical-vocational skills technology and the needs of the host areas
and adjacent communities served in the context of the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integration and the Philippine
Qualifications Framework for TVET; and

(e) Compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and
standards, as may be necessary and applicable in establishing a
Center.

SEC. 6. Administration. – The Centers shall each be headed
by a Technical-Vocational Administrator, under the supervision of
the TESDA, who shall render full-time service and be responsible for
the Centers’ respective administration and operation.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall be appointed by
the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules and
regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification
requirements for such office.

The Technical-Vocational Administrator shall enter into
agreements with locally-based private and public counterpart
agencies or instrumentalities and persons, subject to the approval of
the TESDA Director General, for such assistance as may be necessary
to effectively implement this Act.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The TESDA Director General shall
include in the Authority’s program the operation of the Centers, the
funding of which shall be included in the annual General
Appropriations Act.

The LGUs concerned, in consultation with the TESDA, shall
set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed
appropriate as annual counterpart fund to support the operation of
the Centers herein established.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within
ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the TESDA shall, in
coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST, DA, Department of Budget
and Management, DILG, NEDA, concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host localities, prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. — If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved, O